

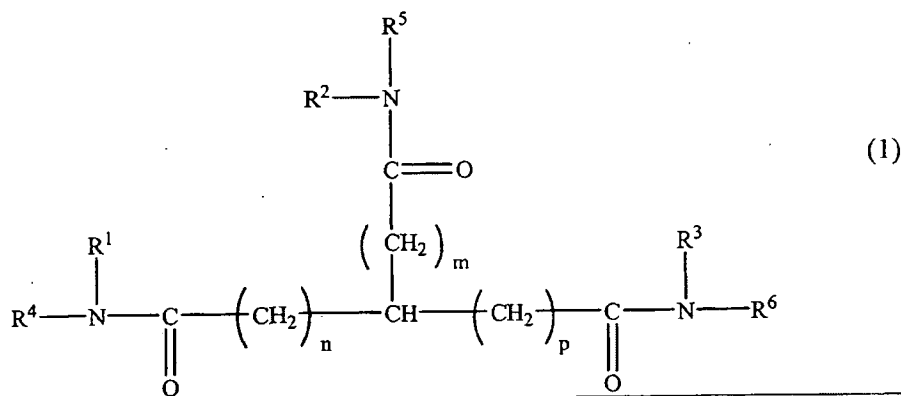
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled).

Claim ~~3~~ (Currently Amended): An amide compound represented by the following

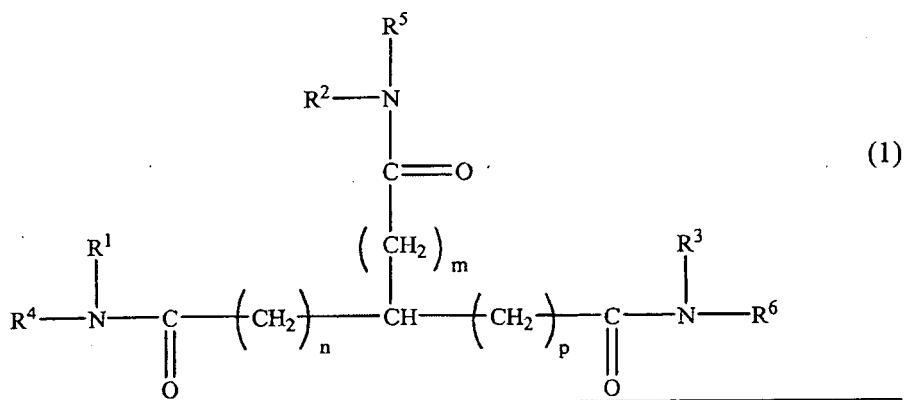
formula 1:



wherein R¹, R² and R³ are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of R¹, R² and R³ is a hydrogen atom; R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; and The amide compound according to claim 1, wherein in formula 1 m is 2, n is 0 and p is 3.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

~~Claim 5~~ (Currently Amended): A gelling agent comprising ~~the~~ an amide compound ~~as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4~~ represented by the following formula 1:



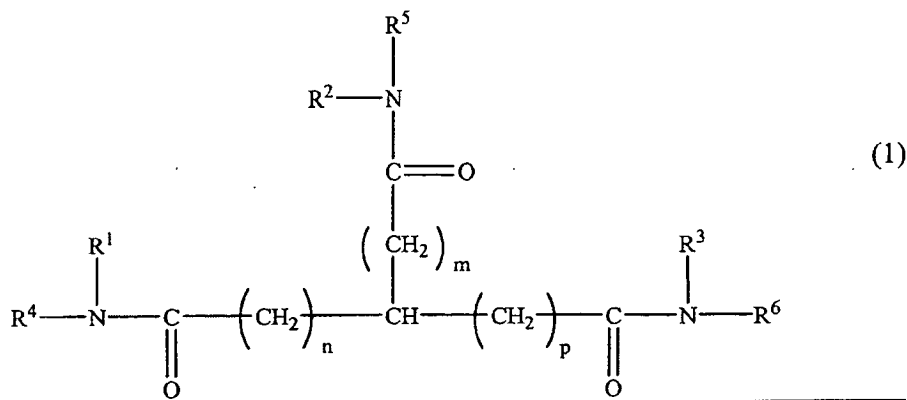
wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is a hydrogen atom; R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; wherein m is 2, n is 0, and p is 3, or m is 1, n is 0, and p is 2.

3

Claim ~~6~~ (Original): A gel composition comprising an oily base and the gelling agent as defined in claim ~~5~~. ²

4

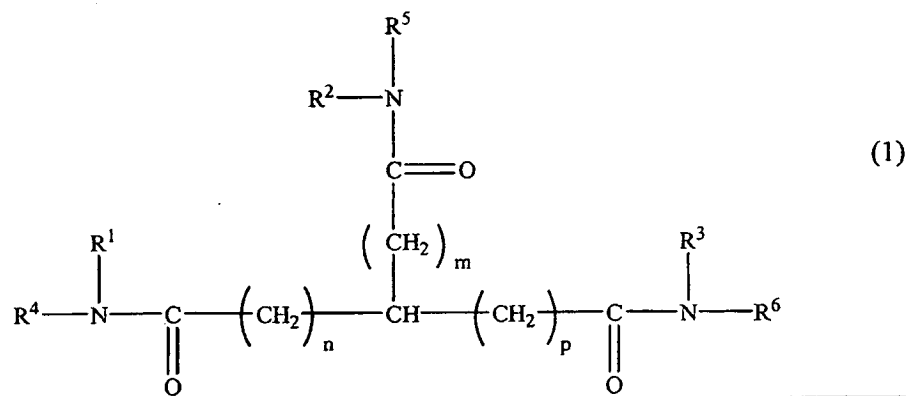
Claim ~~7~~ (Currently Amended): An external composition comprising the an amide compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4 represented by the following formula 1:



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is a hydrogen atom; R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; wherein m is 2, n is 0, and p is 3, or m is 1, n is 0, and p is 2.

5

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A cosmetic ~~preparation~~ composition comprising the an amide compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4 represented by the following formula 1:

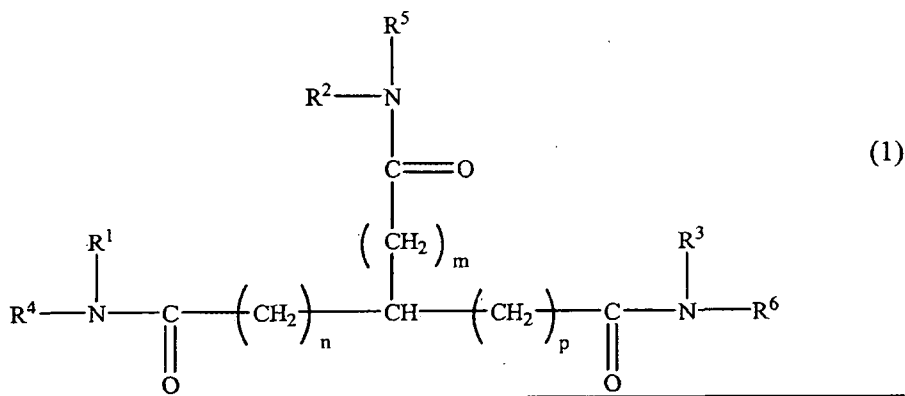


wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a

carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of R¹, R² and R³ is a hydrogen atom; R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; wherein m is 2, n is 0, and p is 3, or m is 1, n is 0, and p is 2.

6

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A fragrance composition comprising a fragrance and the an amide compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4 represented by the following formula 1:



wherein R¹, R² and R³ are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of R¹, R² and R³ is a hydrogen atom; R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; wherein m is 2, n is 0, and p is 3, or m is 1, n is 0, and p is 2.